

**A SYSTEM FOR DETECTING BACTERIA IN BLOOD,
BLOOD PRODUCTS, AND FLUIDS OF TISSUES**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides methods for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant
5 amount of bacteria in donor blood or a blood product from a donor mammal, particularly blood
or a blood product that will be transferred from the donor mammal to a recipient mammal. The
method comprises contacting a sample of the donor blood or a blood product with a set of
binding agents that comprises binding agents that specifically bind to Gram-negative bacterial
antigen and/or binding agents that specifically bind to Gram-positive bacterial antigen, and
10 determining binding of the set of binding agents to the sample, wherein binding indicates the
presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria and/or Gram-negative bacteria
in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant
amount of Gram-positive bacteria and/or Gram-negative bacteria in the donor blood or blood
product.

15 The invention further provides methods and kits for screening for the presence of a
clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria, Gram-negative bacteria, or both Gram-
positive and Gram-negative bacteria in a donor tissue by screening the fluid in which the donor
tissue is stored.